



Minutes and Actions of the Western Locomotive Association Committee Meeting held hybrid in Kidderminster Railway Museum and also via Zoom on 6th July 2024 starting at 13:00.

Actions and Matters Arising in progress from the meeting on 28th February 2024 and also outstanding and complete actions from previous meetings.

	Actions from the meeting on 060724
Roger Smith, Darren Shelmerdine, Ian Clayton, Mark Perry. All Management Committee	It was noted to Management Committee in attendance the matters around negative Facebook posts from a few individuals on Western Lady. Committee must all keep the narrative around we all (i.e. Board, Management Committee and key Working Members) accepted to take on ownership of Lady with not one of those consulted originally against taking on 48. This was with the full understanding that 62 takes operational priority, then the overhaul and return of 13 operational, and then look towards the full assessment of 48 and ultimately the decision of Membership as to whether they would ratify a decision as to whether as an Association we get the locomotive operational again based on our Engineering and Working Members Teams steer. If Committee or Working Members become aware of any inappropriate negative posts on Social Media then please make RS aware. This is in particular reference to it being reported that a few Working Members were considering stepping back from duties due to the negative comments. IC to make all Committee aware of the Articles of Association code of conduct for Management Committee. Introducing Western Lady D10148 to our Articles of Association will be put to Working Members at the AGM in November 2024, if any Members have an issue with 48 they need to raise for the AGM. This will need a clear statement to Membership on latest update on full assessment and future plans. MP to reassure those Working Members who raised concern that this matter will be addressed by the Management Committee going forward and managed accordingly, including the removal of inappropriate and negative posts that could harm the objectives and reputation of the Association.
Darren Shelmerdine, Mike Tromans	A fundraising item was raised as an idea by MTr as to whether some of our regular and trusted suppliers would be willing to sponsor the WLA. DS to send MT a list of regular suppliers who we could ask if they would like to sponsor our locomotives. In return they will get advertising on web site and in magazine.
Mike Targett, Peter Bamber, Roger Smith	It was noted to Committee that some individuals who purchase items from the online store, or wish to make donations, like to do so via BACS. We discussed making our BACs details available clearly on our website for those who wish to use this method of transferring funds and donations. We agreed to do this so MT and PB will progress by using our alternative bank account.
Roger Smith	It was noted that our donation details are at the bottom of our website page. It was suggested that it would be better for this donation button on the website to be at the top of our pages, as well as a button next to the Join button. RS to progress this with SA.
Peter Bamber	A matter was raised regarding our Membership offering including a better Membership Card offering, as per our peers in other preservation groups. PB to look into permanent credit card style

	Membership Cards going forwards, particular with auto renewal now available. Discuss at next Sales Meeting.
Mike Tromans	MTr raised concerns that the facilities at TMD for Working Members are very substandard and unfit for purpose, and is contravening working directives on health, safety, and wellbeing. MTr to consult with other Working Members to write up the issue to send to RS and then forward on to Jonathan Dunster as General Manager for awareness and action.
Paul Finch	PF updated Committee regarding issues with sending out large size files and also to large distribution lists as part of the e-Newsletter. PF to look into better ways to send our Newsletter correspondence out including sowing the seed that the Newsletter is available to download on our Members Area Website. Also look into autoresponder software to support the workload of maintaining large distribution lists.
	Actions from previous meetings
Roger Smith, Paul Finch, Darren Shelmerdine	LJ queried whether it would be possible sponsor a part for the D1013 Bogie Fund if they so wished? Would need to cost up each part but it could be possible. RS and PF to take forward with DS. UPDATE 060724: Bogie Appeal fund has sufficient money available for all parts as it currently stands (£37,216k). We also have a positive balance of £10,500k due to a recent donation. Money will be used to purchase other parts so almost breaking even. What we don't know is the condition of the bogies, so additional funding may be needed. There is also additional funding from the Mike Woodhouse book of £800. We can park this idea for future use. Action complete and closed.
Darren Shelmerdine	RJ raised the question as to whether the brake cylinders would be overhauled by a 3 rd party as it is unlikely we would be able to do ourselves due to safety requirements. DS agreed this would need to be carried out by a 3 rd party contractor and will progress. UPDATE 060724: still needs to be progressed, particularly on 13. If they are no leaking the SVR have said if they are not broken don't fix it. 62 should be fine.
Mark Perry, Paul Finch, Roger Smith, Ian Clayton	As part of the discussion around future Sales Team items and general fundraising it was agreed as a Committee to progress finding a Fundraising Officer to co-opt on to Committee. Then if successful put forward the position to vote on as AGM and include on our Articles of Association. This role would look to run a lottery/bingo type scheme to bring in extra funding to support loco maintenance as regular income, as well as look for other opportunities for fundraising including appropriate grants. MP and PF to progress advert in the next Newsletter and Courier Magazine. RS to put an advert on the website. IC will reach out to a previous Member who was interested in fundraising. UPDATE 060724: Mike Tromans has been co-opted on to Committee as a Fundraising Officer unanimously with 12 votes for after 2 potential candidates were proposed by the WLA Board with Mike Seconded by Paul Tucker. This will now be put to our Membership at Novembers AGM for full resolution. Action complete and closed.
Roger Smith, Lyn Jones.	IC reported that a Member had come forward suggesting apprenticeships as a way of attracting newer younger working members. It was noted that the youngest attendee at the recent 50 th Anniversary was mid 40s and we should do more to encourage younger generations to get involved to keep our locos going for future generations. Other ideas had been brought up at last year's AGM such as offering a one of younger membership for kids that lasts until they are 16 (82045 group have a one off £150 kids membership until 16 instead of yearly renewal, ties them in during their younger years). Also the idea of more short videos of interesting work going on and posting on social media including YouTube/TikTok. RS, DS to talk to RB and SVR Liaison Office about tapping into SVR Apprentices

	<p>(Junior Club) or associating it with our own WLA Junior Club if we decided to set our own up.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: RS did some research and it is a lot of work to set up logistically. MT offered to look into this and some ideas. Need to attract youngsters when they are old enough to work on the locos post 16 years old. DS suggested having a word with the VLO and advertising the WLA are available for youngsters to work on locomotives in the future. Could give them a free Membership for a year. Ask LJ to make a word with the VLO and make us more visible for youngsters coming through the ranks. There are a lot of youngsters turning to the DTG for volunteering currently.</p>
Roger Smith, All	<p>It was also noted by IC that we need to be very careful sending Members personal data around by email, and storing on personal devices. As a minimum any spreadsheet or document holding Members personal details needs to be password protected. Ideally we would store all WLA documents, including those holding personal membership details on an encrypted secure server. Committee would then access this and not keep membership personal details on personal devices or send to each other by email. RS will liaise with Steve Ashdown about secure encrypted storage for all our documentation including secure storage for Members personal details.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: RS is progressing with SA regarding Google Drive but there are a few snagging issues to run through.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: storage is now set up. Those who have been given access have been sent an email to try accessing.</p>
Peter Bamber, Paul Finch	<p>It was noted that we would need the latest updated email addresses, and where we do not have those, the latest updated postal addresses, for all paid up Members. This is to send out the AGM proxy voting forms and meet the team documents. PB/PF to ask Paul Tucker for the latest spreadsheet and do a cross reference with the website to make sure we have all up to date addresses for paid up Members only. Then send to IC in a password protected spreadsheet.</p> <p>It was also noted that it is quite a large overhead printing AGM paperwork for just 20 members who haven't provided their email addresses.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: IC to send MP the list of 20 members who haven't provided their email address to write a letter to them requesting one.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: list was sent to MP after our last Committee Meeting in February. We have had 3 emails since. Close this action as we're unlikely to get anymore. Action complete and closed.</p>
Peter Bamber	<p>An idea was discussed around rejuvenating something along the lines of the 1000 club whereby Members or supporters can pay a monthly subscription in return for some form of prize/rewards (e.g. first service train hauled by D1013 or D1048, the latter if feasible). PB to progress this idea and share plans accordingly with Committee.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: covered later in the agenda.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: will cover on the Sales Team Meeting.</p>
Ian Clayton, Jonathan Sandiford.	<p>The WLA Board Proposal to the SVR Board and WLA Committee regarding the WLA taking ownership of D1048.</p> <p>ACTION: IC and JS to produce wording of AGM proposal and proxy to amend our Memorandum of Association to include D1048 so it is ready to go out straight after the SVR Diesel Gala. We will also look to send by email to those who have a registered email address and only send postal copies out to those who we do not have a registered postal address.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: IC and JS progressing the logistics around what needs to be progressed to update our Memorandum of Associations by way of a resolution to our Membership. After further research and</p>

	<p>investigation it has been found we have to gain written agreement from the Charities Commission to amend our Articles of Association, which our Memorandum of Association is now part of as part of the Charities Act 2006. Once we have agreement we can then put the resolutions to our Membership through an EGM or AGM. We have agreed this is just not possible to put to our Membership at the AGM in November in the timescales available as we need to give 28 days' notice to our Membership let alone getting agreement from the Charities Commission. As we have also noted further changes to our Articles of Association may also be needed from a Membership perspective, we are going to put a resolution to Membership including the previous vote last year again and any new additions needed, and the resolution of adding D1048 to our Articles of Association as per D1013 and D1062. This will require 75% of the Membership vote for (those in attendance or voting by proxy) to be passed.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: ongoing. Will be progressed in spring with appropriate wording put forward to Membership vote for updating our Objects and Articles of Association. This will be in the form of a future working locomotive for paperwork purposes. Also need to incorporate other necessary changes identified previously and help on current draft Articles update, as well as changing our Membership year as flagged by PT at our last meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: ongoing. IC has sent JS all relevant paperwork (e.g. new type up of Articles and Memorandum by PF to add additions to, previously suggested changes put to our Membership in 2022). This will need ratifying by Board and Committee before advising the Charities Commission of our intentions for approval. We will then be able to send out to Membership for resolution at this years AGM in November. We agreed to keep to Western Class 52 locomotives. JS to finalise paperwork by the end of July for Directors and Committee to ratify.</p>
<p>Jon Aston, Ian Clayton, Paul Tucker.</p>	<p>DP to look into how to chase HMRC and there are options for online chat. DP to check emails as usually get receipts. We need a receipt for MT and annual accounts submissions. We need confirmation they have got our returns.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: MT has prepared gift aid assessment and passed on to JA. We still have not received the money for 2018, and we still have outstanding 2021, 2022 and now 2023. IC to ask for an update from DP and JA.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: unfortunately the 2018 Gift Aid Return that went missing on delivery to HMRC has had to be written off as our Accountants informed us we only have 4 years to complete and process with HMRC. Therefore our attentions and priority must turn to 2021 onwards now working with JA. Issue is with access to HMRC who need proof of JA being a fit and proper person. There is a questionnaire which IC will help JA with.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: JA has been working with DP to get our account transferred to JA so our Gift Aid Returns can be submitted. DP has got a change of responsible officer form to complete and send to HMRC before this can be finalised. JA to keep DP honest as this needs to be completed ASAP. JA to advise the Board if he needs any support to get this over the line, get paper Membership details from Paul Tucker, and Stripe details from logging in to access provided. Keep Directors copied in to emails to keep up-to-date with the latest and support where needed.</p>
<p>Mark Perry, Roger Smith, Darren Shelmerdine.</p>	<p>RS, PF to check with Roland regarding the space for Bridgnorth bogie. DS to plan how we move the spare bogie at Bridgnorth to Kidderminster, and any works associated. We could move it with the track it is on now. If it needs to be lifted off the track it will need a full assessment by RJ, PS. We then need to get a quote and go to the SVR to see if they will pay an amount towards the bogie relocation to Kidderminster.</p>

	<p>UPDATE 071023: Allely's gave a quote of £6k and so is expensive as it will need specialist equipment like a specialised folk lift. Using the steam crane will require some specialist help as it won't be able to lift it in its current position as it is too far from the rails (need something that can lift 15 tonnes). MP to go back to Allelys to see if there is any manoeuvre with the costs and get a new quote. Could also use another option utilising the steam crane using heavy duty ratchets to pull towards the rail but it will depend on the integrity of the sleepers (which is not thought to be good). We also need to make sure the bogies are fit to move with drawings with Duncan Ballard for fittings. DS to organise putting torque reactions arms on which will need a working party of around 3 over a weekend in November at the earliest. RS to talk to Roland to confirm location for bogies and get rails and sleepers in place. RS to apply for funding with SVR once we have the quote.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: space has been agreed to store our spare bogie at Kidderminster past the turntable. We have a quote from Allely's. DS needs to assess the bogie and prepare for transit with the Working Members which will take a few weekends work. We will look to move it in the autumn. RS has applied for an assisted project grant for half the cost to the SVR Guarantee Company.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: assigned project grant from SVR Guarantee Company was turned down. Means the spare bogie will remain at Bridgnorth for the times being. We do want the bogie down at Kidderminster but we need to prioritise D1013. It does mean that it will probably cost more to move it. The SVR could come back in the future and ask us to move it again, at which point we reapply for funding. Action completed and closed for now.</p>
Paul Finch, Peter Bamber	<p>Crowd funding, can we appeal through this? Covid impacts on us and our ability to work on the locos, and the opportunities to run on the railway may be limited for some time. PF to look into this through Railway Magazines.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: looked into options. Having something ready for the May Diesel Gala would be desirable. Need to identify a project and raise money from a large number of small investors. You can make it straight forward and donation based. The other option is you promote rewards based and offer something back (e.g. D1048 get to ride on its first passenger service). PB to also look into 1000 club but has to be rewarding for those who contribute.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: covered as part of the Sales Team fundraising agenda item.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: Mike Tromans has set up a Crowd Funding page which has now raised around £800 towards our 3 locomotives maintenance.</p>
Mark Perry	<p>MP to contact Masterpiece Models and invite to the SVR for a cab ride and tour of the depot.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: roll over into 2024.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: complete during this coming running season.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: progressing and with those who have cab rides to finalise dates.</p>
Darren Shelmerdine	<p>Agreed that due to an incredibly busy running season any opportunity to run bespoke OBBO trains will need to wait for the 2023 running season. However it may be possible to get an OBBO on a service train. Still planning for an OBBO to celebrate the lives and dedication to the WLA of Greg Heathcliffe and Henry Coates.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: prioritise Henry and Greg OBBO for 2024. DS to liaise with the railway regarding an OBBO on a service train in memory of both. Then organise an OBBO only day either in 2024 or 2025.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: DS planning for an OBBO charter for early July 2024.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: Will now need to be planned in 2025.</p>
Closed actions from previous meetings	

1. Welcome

Present in person: Roger Smith (Chair and Director), Paul Finch (Vice Chair, Publicity Officer and Director), Ian Clayton (Company Secretary and Director), Jon Aston (Charity's Officer), Mark Perry (Editor), Jonathan Sandiford (Legal Officer), Mike Tromans (Fundraising Officer).

Present virtually: Mike Targett (Treasurer), Darren Shelmerdine (Engineering Project Coordinator), Robin Jones (Maintenance and Standards Engineer), Peter Bamber (Sales Officer), Lyn Jones (Working Members Officer).

2. Apologies for absence

IC

Marty Kent (Ordinary Members Officer), Paul Tucker – we noted no absence officially submitted (Membership Officer).

3. Actions from last meeting

IC

Provided above with ongoing actions from previous meetings as well as new actions from this meeting. Please continue to update Ian Clayton on any progress or completion of actions.

Committee Meeting Minutes from our previous meeting on the 28th February 2024 were approved by all in attendance. Mark Perry proposed, seconded by Paul Finch.

4. Chairman's Report

RSS

Opening Remarks

First of all, I would like to welcome Mike Tromans to the WLA Committee Team to fulfil the role of Fundraising Officer, a role which we agreed upon at our last Committee Meeting. As you are aware, the position will need to be approved at the next AGM but thanks to Mike, we now have a new Crowdfunding site, which so far, has raised £700. I'm sure that Mike will come up with ways to help promote this site, along with other initiatives to help keep our finances going in the right direction! In the meantime, I am sure you'll join me in welcoming Mike to the team. Despite some fairly major challenges to bring D1062 back into traffic and to maintain the locomotive in working order, the WLA has done well to fulfil the locomotive's operating requirements so far, this year. The locomotive not only starred during the SVR's Spring Gala event but has operated on at least 13 different occasions with around 18 more operating days to go. So far, the locomotive is playing its part to earn revenue of well over £6k, if we take into account our maintenance allowance. So, a big thank you is due to the Working Members who have helped maintain D1062, overcoming all the various set-backs and keeping the loco in traffic.

And then, the success of the Spring Gala weekend produced some great results from the Sales Team where a combination of Sales, Donations, Depot Tours and Raffle Sales produced the best part of £20k of revenue. One donation in particular, provided almost £8k towards D1013's Bogie Appeal. This Appeal so far, has covered all the costs of the Hangers and Pedestal Brackets being manufactured, leaving a balance of £10.5k. Certainly, we will keep the Bogie Appeal open for the time being, as there are additional items such as Torque Reaction Rubbers, High Tensile Bolts, Brake Cylinder components to purchase which will use most of the remaining funds and so anything else we find, such as cracked bogie frame repairs, which would

require additional finance, once D1013 is up on the jacks, which is being planned by the Autumn Diesel Gala.

During the year, we have updated our Business Plan, produced a new handout leaflet together with a Legacy Guide leaflet, which in itself is backed up by a new page on our website. As you are all aware, legacies have helped to contribute enormously to our funds and several people have expressed interest in doing these, which will help secure the future of the WLA in years to come. In the meantime, we need to focus on helping to recruit additional members to the WLA; I cannot emphasise how important this is, as with more Members, we gain more chance of help and support from what was a diminishing number of Working Members which has only recently been revived. We've tried to make it as easy as possible for people to join via the WLA's website, and we've not long provided the option for Members to "gift" WLA Membership, if they so wish.

I should also mention that our publicity is being backed up by our superb Courier magazine and of course, the monthly e-Newsletters, which are really appreciated by our Members.

Board Meeting held on 4th July 2024

A WLA Board meeting was held by Zoom on Thursday, 4th July 2024. A review of our finances and budget was made where our available funds (after our budget) had increased from £34.1k to £40.3k. Following two new items to be added to our Budget (Turbo for "A" end of D1013 and additional storage container) our budget had increased from £60.25k to £70.25k, which was updated as follows:

Current Budget

PROPOSED COMMITTED WLA EXPENDITURE (SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL IF NOT ON ORDER) AS AT 4th July 2024

Brake Gauges:	£1,400	
Batteries for D1013:	£6,000	
Brake System D1013:	£10,000	
Brake Cylinders D1062:	£1,500	
Engine Parts D1013:	£6,000	
1 x short cardan shaft for D1013:	£4,850	
Turbo Rebuild for D1013 "B" end	£7,000	
Turbo for D1013 "A" end	£7,000	(new item)
Repaint D1062:	£1,000	
Kidderminster Tools:	£1,000	
Additional 40 ft Container	£5,000	(new item)
Oil Sampling:	£500	
Spare Bogie Lift:	£6,000	
Transmission Project:	£8,000	
Contingency:	£5,000	
TOTAL	£70,250	

Administration

The storage of confidential information is now possible via WordPress on Google Drive, thanks to work undertaken by Steve Ashdown. Any Committee Member can now store confidential information on our site if they wish, albeit that it will be visible to other Committee Members. Please let me know if you wish to access.

Once again the start of the season didn't really go according to plan. With some delays, 62 was signed off only the week before the first operating day. Issues with the Preheaters and the "A" End AVR all setting thing back. There was one Saturday afternoon in particular the Working Members went home very despondent. Yet somehow the members involved with 62 entering traffic for the year turned it around.

The first couple of running day seemed to go well, yet sine then courier has once again been trying the patience of the working Members. Firstly a leak from a cooler Group Element was discovered. This was going to be changed, but due to lack of access to the TMD, this wasn't done as planning before the Gala. The Leak comes and goes and is being monitored.

During the Gala 62 blow a Hydraulic Hose Flange at "B" End. This meant 62 ran part of the Gala on "A" Engine only. Following that Gala, the hose was removed and the flange that blow was taken apart, cleaned and reassembled with a new gasket. I'm happy to report that this was successful and there have been no further leaks.

Unfortunately, the "A" End Preheater has been somewhat troublesome of late and has been restricted to Emergency Use Only. Investigation are continuing, but until resolver 62 will be operating on "B" Engine Only

Despite all the issues, 62's operating income has already earned the WLA over £6,000. It is important that we try hand keep 62 operational where possible. It's operation not only bring in the operating income, but additional income from the sales Team who continue to do a fantastic job and keeps the WLA's profile high which drives interest. I'm sure that working as a Team we came overcome these issues.

Going forward with 62, following some work yesterday, the "A" End Preheater is back in operation. Though this will be slow to preheat. An "A" Exam is being planned for early August.

With 62 in traffic, the Working Member could finally turn their attentions toward ranger. Over the Gala Ranger was over the Sidepit and a start made on the Bogie Inspection. This continued in early June. Also during the Gala, the first of the Spring Hanger Blanks had arrived for verification. Graham, Robin and myself checked all the dimensions against the drawing and we found all were within tolerance. Following this the production order was authorised. Over the coming weeks all the parts ordered should arrive. I would like to think that Ranger will be on the Jacks by the Autumn Gala and that we can start work on them.

I think that we need an aim point for finishing Ranger and discussed July 2025 as a date for Ranger to return to Traffic. I'll be discussing this more openly at the Working Members Meeting next week. This will depend very much on Courier behaving and as much time as possible spent on Ranger.

I am getting a little annoyed with some of the comment directed against Lady. The WLA position and intentions have been publicised on a number of occasions, yet there seem to be errant dislike of Lady from certain quarters who say there bit every time it's mentioned. The WLA has make a commitment to assess and preserve Lady for the time being as time and resources allow. To that we must not diverge. Although I for one would like to work more on Lady and see her running again in the future. The WLA as a Team and Group must continue to maintain Courier to

operational condition and complete Ranger's overhaul to return her to operation. I can't emphasise too much that the WLA HAS to stay as one team and can't go back to the days where some members would only work on certain locos.

I mentioned the income so far. Please see the breakdown to the end of June.

<u>Income - DFE's</u>		£800
<u>Income - Running Days</u>		£2,720
<u>Income - Additional</u>		£0
<u>Income - Traffic</u>		£0
<u>Income - Additional, Vice Steam</u>		£0
<u>Allowance</u>		£2,850
<u>Total</u>		£6,370

I wish to convey my thanks to All whom have supported the WLA in recent months. Particularly those who helped with 62 on Winter Maintenance and getting her ready for the season during some quite challenging times.

ACTION: RS update Committee on the matters around negative Facebook posts from a few individuals on Western Lady. Committee must all keep the narrative around we all accepted to take on ownership of Lady with 62 taking operational priority, then the overhaul and return of 13 operational, and then look towards the full assessment of 48 and ultimately the decision of Membership as to whether they would ratify a decision as to whether as an Association we get the locomotive operational again based on our Engineering and Working Members Teams steer. If Committee or Working Members become aware of any inappropriate posts on Social Media then please make RS aware. IC to make all Committee aware of the Articles of Association code of conduct for Management Committee. Introducing Western Lady D10148 to our Articles of Association will be put to Working Members at the AGM in November 2024, if any Members have an issue with 48 they need to raise for the AGM. This will need a clear statement to Membership on latest update on full assessment and future plans.

6. Fundraising and Sales Plan **MT/PB**

See Mike Tromans Officer Report below with full details.

ACTION: DS to send MT a list of regular suppliers who we could ask if they would like to sponsor our locomotives. In return they will get advertising on web site and in magazine.

7. Update to Memorandum and Articles of Association IC/JS

See update above in Actions and Matters Arising.

8. Officer Reports **All**

Vice-Chairman and Publicity (PF)

From a PR perspective, it has been a rather quiet period for the 4 months from March through to June.

The big disappointment is that we hosted the Editor of Heritage Railways on 20th April – provided a tour of the TMD and of our locomotives and the promise was an article in the magazine, which to date has not materialised.

Coverage in the railway press however continues and Editors continue to receive every month a copy of our e-Newsletter – this continues to prove beneficial as they are picking out items that are of interest to them and including us in their publications.

March

- Western Ranger to remain in BR Blue in Heritage News in Railway Magazine

April

- Western Locomotive Association celebrates its golden anniversary in Railways Illustrated.
- D1048 Western Lady Progress Update in Railways Illustrated
- WLA order more than £20,000 of parts for D1013..... in Trackside

May

- D1013 and D1062 Progress Update in Railways Illustrated

June

- Success! D1015 returns to main line passenger action – with references to the WLA having the only other operation Class 52... in Railways Illustrated
- One Way leads to big success for Western Mainline comeback – in Heritage Rail – with pictures supplied by Western Locomotive Association

July

- D1062 Progress Update in Railways Illustrated

That is eight articles / features / write ups in 4 months – keeping us in the public eye.

Whizzo Woods

The number of trees in Whizzo Woods continues to grow and stands at 381, an increase of sixty-one since the last report.

D1013 Bogie Overhaul Appeal

Significant donations were received during the Spring Diesel Gala to the appeal, following the large expenditure during the spring, so the “pot” remains healthy.

Pop Up Banners.

A new Pop-Up Banner has been delivered to promote and bring attention to the WLA in general – and in line with the recent WLA Flyer produced.

A Pop-Up Banner to keep D1048 very much in the public eye will then follow.

e-Newsletters

The monthly e-Newsletters continue to be well received and contributions from Working Members and WLA Members continue to be received. However, please keep them coming and thank you for your support in keeping the e-Newsletter interesting and informative.

The Western Locomotive Association ON TOUR (Finch, Bamber and Kite Productions)

The “Team” have been out and about again with our Presentation – “**The HIGHS and LOWS of Preserving, Maintaining and Operating TWO THREE Western Class 52 Diesel Locomotives.**” This time we presented to the Bath Railway Circle on 6th June and were very well received.

Next booking is not until 2025 to the Didcot GWRS – so if you know of any societies that might want us to present, please spread the word.

ACTION: PF to look into better ways to send our Newsletter correspondence out including sowing the seed that the Newsletter is available to download on our Members Area Website. This is due to issues with send out large size files and also to

large distribution lists. Also look into autoresponder software to support the workload of maintaining large distribution lists.

Treasurer (MT)

Details our financial position as of 01.07.24

Cash: £164,240

Budget: (£70,250)

Contingency: (£30,000)

Hangers: (£15,484)

Pedestals: (£8,200)

Available funds: £40,306

Made up of

Restricted funds (D1013 bogie appeal): £10,500

Unrestricted funds: £29,806

Restricted funds made up of:

Donations: £37,216

Hangers tooling paid: (£4,732)

Hangers balance: (£15,484)

Pedestals x 12/16: (£6,500)

Balance: £10,500

Engineering Project Coordinator (DS)

See above Engineering plans agenda item report.

Maintenance and Standards Engineer (RJ)

Please accept my apologies as I'll be child minding our grandchildren with Lyn this Saturday.

Summary report for 1062 & 1013 as follows:

1062 continues to perform well since the start of the season, apart from ongoing reliability issues with 'A' end pre-heater.

Following remedial attention by Roger Fry & Ian Jackson, the pre-heater is now serviceable again although it will require further work to restore normal operation. The loco will undergo it's mid-season 'A' exam next month which should enable it to run up to & including the autumn diesel gala. Additional exams will be required if it is planned to run beyond the gala.

An initial assessment of 1013's bogies has been completed in readiness for the overhaul which is planned to commence later this year.

New auxiliary air reservoirs have been installed in preparation for getting the loco airtight.

Thanks to the bogie men & women, who have recently spent many hours within the TMD scraping crud from the bogie frames and running gear.

I've requested an update from Martin White (SVR Head of Traction & Rolling Stock Engineering) regards the company's intention to standardise the way in which all of the diesel groups manage and record their maintenance activities. The SVR produced a draft policy document last year which was circulated to key engineering

representatives for review. Once I've had a response from Martin, I'll brief the committee on how I think it will affect the WLA volunteers and working members.

I'm also in the process of acquiring a redundant mobile digital brake tester which we can use to calibrate the gauges on our locos during brake tests. It will enable us to check the accuracy of the gauge readings to a higher level than is currently possible when using analogue test equipment and should improve the reliability of the brake system when making adjustments to brake valves etc.

Membership Secretary (PT)

No report submitted

Sales (PB)

1. Events

a. The overall result for the Spring Gala and Associated raffle was in excess of £10,000 which is a fantastic result. Donations of books, models and memorabilia have continued to be received and made up a significant proportion of the sales result and, of course, are 100% profit. Generous raffle prizewinners donated back £650 of the £850 prize money.

2. Publications

a. Work is continuing on a publication to celebrate 50 years of the WLA in 2024. It will be launched at the Autumn Gala and it's going to be an absolute cracker, with a 25% discount for WLA members.

b. Bernard Mills new two volume Waterloo to the Atlantic Coast is selling well.

3. Merchandise

a. Prints of a beautiful pencil drawing, "Bufferstop Wizzos" are now available in A2 or A3 as a limited edition of 74. Phil Hiscocks did the drawing and has donated a framed A2 print and the first six A2 and A3 prints. The Giclee process has been used in which the picture is printed on high quality board incorporating a border so ready for framing.

b. New car stickers with three locos are being produced by popular demand and as always, all ideas for new merchandise are welcome.

4. Autumn Raffle

a. First prize is a A2 limited edition print of "Bufferstop Wizzos" by Phil Hiscocks in a lovely contemporary frame.

b. Second prize is a full size reproduction name and numberplate set in MDF for D1013 Western Ranger with red background which has been donated as a thank you for all the numberplates we bought for Ranger and Courier's 60th birthdays.

c. Third prize is a Dapol 00-gauge model of Ranger in maroon with small yellow panels.

ACTION: PB to look into permanent credit card style Membership Cards going forwards, particular with auto renewal now available. Discuss at next Sales Meeting.

Charities Officer (JA)

Taking on this role 18 months ago has proved to be most frustrating. I have spent a lot of time trying to make progress but feel as if I am meeting barriers and obstruction at nearly every turn.

After last years AGM I met with my predecessor Derek Payne. He handed a number of files over to me and gave me some instruction in what I would need to do.

Derek wanted to remain as the HMRC contact as there were outstanding issues that he may have needed to complete.

Once Derek informed me that he was ready to hand over I began what I assumed would be the simple process of registering myself with HMRC and the Charities Commission. Both of these processes have been extremely challenging.

I have now attempted to submit change forms to HMRC on five occasions, which after several weeks on each occasion were each rejected, despite me following the guidance I was given. Eventually it transpired that only Roger Smith or Derek Payne could submit the forms. Ian Clayton has helped me attempt to submit the form twice with the last one being submitted in Roger's name as suggested. Again, the form was rejected.

A few weeks ago, Derek contacted me to inform me that HMRC had written to him regarding the change forms that had been submitted. Derek advised me that he would contact charities commission and HMRC. I spoke to Derek again a few days ago. He informed me that I was now the main contact with the Charity Commission and that he would continue to pursue the issue with HMRC.

I have tried to log into the charities account over the last few days and remain as third party look up access only. I suspect the changes Derek has requested are still waiting to be actioned. If any committee member has admin rights to the Charities Commission system could I ask that you try to sign into your account and then go to the account admin page and give me admin access rights.

I have so far heard nothing further from either Derek or HMRC.

Sadly, during the past few months, I have had several periods of ill health and hospitalisation which has prevented me being more active in pursuit of these matters. I have a submission ready to make to HMRC as soon as I get access.

I still need information that I have previously requested to enable me to prepare further submissions. I need membership data for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24 and details of any donations made during the same periods. I am very keen to get these submissions made and get everything outstanding up to date, assuming I can ever get access to do so.

Charities Commission Annual Return

This is due to be submitted soon. Could I request a copy of the annual accounts for 2022/23 be sent to me as soon as possible and also a copy of the Trustee's Annual Report for the same period.

Editor (MP)

The Spring 2024 magazine print run was 575 copies of which 515 have been sent out to members, clearly demonstrating the increased interest in the WLA since Blue Heaven and the gifting of D1048. The Autumn 2024 is well advanced and will be sent out in mid-September.

Paragon Printing made an error with the Spring magazine, printing the inside pages on coated, rather than uncoated paper. This meant that the weight of the magazine went over the 100g threshold for a small letter. This unfortunately meant that postage per magazine was £2.10 rather than 85p. Some of this was able to be offset by using the remainder of the donated stamps. Matt at Paragon has agreed to offset some of the additional costs incurred over the next few print runs. I will monitor this going forwards.

The Mike Woodhouse book has sold well with 163 sold to date. As it was Mike's request that the proceeds should go to Rangers bogie appeal, I believe that after the printing costs £805 needs transferring into that. I will contact Mike and let him know of the progress so far.

Items for consideration

1. Magazine Content -I need all material for the Autumn 2024 magazine to be with me by 16th July latest. This is earlier than first requested as Colin Marsden is going on holiday in August and I need to get everything ready for print before he goes away.
2. Cab Rides – Saturday 17th August Alan Byrne
Saturday 14th or Sunday 15th September - Jon Borowski/Adrian Knowles, Masterpiece Models – actual date to be confirmed.
I need someone to act as host and travel in the rear cab for these dates if possible. I will do the meet and greet on 17th August but need to leave before the train departs at 12:15. Likewise I am not available on 14th September but can do 15th if that date is confirmed.
3. D1013 Bogie Fund - £805 to be put into fund.

Moderation of Facebook posts - a number of working members have expressed disquiet at some of the posts that have been on the Facebook page. This is leading to some people questioning whether they wish to carry on as working members of the WLA.

Secretary (IC)

No further updates other than those provided for the Articles of Association and Gift Aid above.

Fundraising Officer (MT)

Dear members thank you for voting me onto the committee as Fund-Raising officer. Please see below an overview of progress so far with next steps planned.

1. Crowd Funding.

Some successful first steps have been made with the setting up of our WLA crowd funding account with almost £800 raised so far with some ongoing monthly pledges included in this, I need to speak with Mike to sort out claiming the gift aid proportion of this.

Next steps;

- How to reach out to more people to donate a regular monthly amount, the potential money to be raised could be dramatic
- Join the £4 per month club with a mention in the magazine and on the website with a thank you gift (to be discussed)
- Individual fund raising through Crowd Funding.

2. Sponsorship.

Speak to Darren and others about a list of companies we currently use for supplies and services and potential others beyond this, with a view to developing contributions by way of sponsorship.

Next steps;

- Contact companies by email to gauge level of interest with proposal.
- Discuss with committee how we would sponsor. (website, magazine, correspondence, stationary etc?)

3. Projects.

Costings out for various up and coming essential maintenance and repair projects once assessments have been carried out. It is important that those who contribute see where their money is going and not just becoming part of a bank balance. Knowing that they have played a part in the future operation of our locomotives.

Next Steps;

- Notify members of first project, this might be the welding of D1013's cooler group, as an example.
- Reporting back to members when projects have been completed with thankyou mentions of donators who helped make it happen.
- Getting expertise outside of the association from those with a specific skill set who might be willing to carry out specialist tasks either as a donation or at reduced cost and offering sponsorship for companies or individuals that do such work. The importance of utilising the combined knowledge and skill base of all members, for advice and support at all times.

4. Further social media coverage of WLA and our work.

Setting up a twitter account and TIK TOC page to develop clear lines of communication to build and maintain positive relationships, most importantly catch the attention of younger potential members and wider public interest.

Next steps;

- Look at logistics of set up
- Investigate other potential outlets

5. WLA lottery.

I have given this idea some thought but would appreciate everyone's input on how this might run please.

E.g. Timescale - monthly, quarterly,

Range of numbers - 1000 to 1073

Prizes – Cash, other or a choice.

Organisation and drawing numbers etc.

To conclude this report, I have included below future fund-raising information from my application for your thoughts.

Some responsibilities and opportunities moving forwards:

Many of these will require much further in-depth research.

- Motivate and facilitate supporters to maximise the funds they raise
- Inspire new supporters to raise money, while maintaining and developing relationships with existing supporters
- organise a range of activities and events
- Encourage donations of unwanted items to be re sold.
- Develop new and imaginative fundraising activities, many of which involve organising events
- Raise awareness of the charity and its work at local and national levels, incorporate fund raising into future talks to group.
- Seeking photo opportunities with the media
- Develop educational arm of the association
- Develop and coordinate web-based fundraising, online auctions

- Increase funds by researching and targeting charitable trusts whose criteria match the charity's aims and activities
- Develop and implement a strategy for individual and corporate supporter sponsorship
- Recruit, organise and manage non-working members as volunteers to carry out various functions within the fund raising i.e. regional activities enabling involvement of those unable to get to SVR
- Investigate matched funding opportunities
- Develop, manage and update database to record donor contacts and information
- Write applications to reach a range of potential and current financial donors

Some roles, responsibilities and important considerations.

To increase the provision of further funding streams for the WLA;

- To carry out its objects and increase opportunities for developing new and existing streams for raising fundraising, grants/trusts and developing other key income streams: major donors, regular giving and corporate.
- Hold a strategic over view of the WLA's fundraising needs and be a key player in associations communications and marketing.
- Manage, support and develop imaginative fundraising activities, some of which will be events-based
- Contribute to bid writing for grant/trust applications
- Inspire new supporters to raise money, while maintaining and developing relationships with existing supporters
- Support presentation delivery to interested groups and to attend events
- Develop and broaden corporate support
- Develop and coordinate web-based fundraising including social media Strategic Direction
- Maintain and update the fundraising and communications budgets, with the Finance Officer
- Develop and update a strategic plan to guide fundraising activities and revenue generation
- Preparation of fundraising report for committee meetings
- Maintaining a fundraising database and documents
- Write and design organisational materials
- Contribute updates of fundraising events and activities for quarterly Newsletters
- Write appeals and direct mail in collaboration with other team members
- Stay abreast of fundraising good practice and legislation, ensuring compliance with the Charities Act and the Institute of Fundraising and FRSB codes of practice
- Adhere to WLA organisational policies, including health and safety.
- Abide by Confidentiality Policy at all times.
- Safe Guarding Children & vulnerable adults where necessary.

Some other thoughts for future activities and opportunities.

Depot tours

Photo opportunities

Train and loco hire for special events

Loco visits and talks

Loco prep and start up events

Donation of reusable unwanted items and set up WLA sales page

Donation plaques on locomotives

Education arm of WLA, school and college visits

Regional talks and film show, etc.

Social events with fund raising activities with offers of free entertainment/performances

Further opportunities for donators with cab rides

Media coverage (I have a close friend at ITV central)

Articles for the railway press

Promote individual Incentives e.g. raise £1K to drive a western light engine (out of season from shed to station and back/ Bewdley and back etc.)

Smaller scale lottery grants that have a wider community angle (the more people who are impacted by this the better.)

ACTION: it was raised that the facilities at TMD for Working Members is contravening working directives on health, safety, and wellbeing. MTr to write up the issue to send to RS and then forward on to Jonathan Dunster as General Manager.

Legal Officer (JS)

No new matters arising to report above and beyond those already in progress and discussed above.

Working Members Officer (LJ)

No new matters arising.

Ordinary Members Officer (MK)

No new matters arising.

9. AOB/dates of next meeting

IC/All

Working Members Meeting 13th July (KRM)

Committee Meeting 12th October 2024 (KRM)

AGM 2nd November 2024 (Royal Star Room - KRM)

Committee Meeting 8th February 2024 (KRM – TBC)

Committee Meeting 12th July 2025 (TBC)

10. Close

www.westernloco.com

The Western Locomotive Association Limited is the owner of D1013 Western Ranger and D1062 Western Courier on the Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire and is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered number 3873466
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